



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Dry Conditions Hinder Winter Wheat Emergence Corn mazes and U-Pick Pumpkin Farms Reported Brisk Business

Field Crops

Another week of sunny autumn weather allowed for fall fieldwork to continue. Lack of precipitation has hindered winter wheat seeding development. Mustard green manure crops were chopped and incorporated in with soil. Potato and onion producers were busy fumigating soils for the 2003 crop. Turfgrass growers continued to irrigate fields due to lack of moisture. Christmas tree growers continued to prepare for harvest of trees in November. Commercial dahlia growers started digging tubers.

Livestock

Eastern Washington range and pastures were in poor condition. Cattle producers were culling herds and selling calves while others were feeding winter forage earlier than usual. Dairy producers took advantage of the dry weather by finishing up green chop harvest. Range and pasture conditions were 13% very poor, 48% poor, 27% fair and 12% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apple and grape harvests were winding down. Freezing weather ended sweet corn harvest in parts of the state. Carrot harvest continued. Corn mazes and U-Pick pumpkin farms reported brisk business.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	18	48	34	0
Subsoil	7	57	36	0
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Hay & Roughage	0	8	92	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	99	97	99	98
Winter Wheat Emerged	90	82	90	91
Potatoes Harvested	95	89	95	95
Corn Harvested	35	24	23	33
Corn Silage Harvested	100	95	100	100
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	100	95	100	99

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	10	90	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Christmas tree growers took advantage of another week of dry, sunny weather to prepare fields for harvest. Sweet corn growers finished seeding cover crops. Commercial dahlia growers began digging tubers.

Pierce/South King: The weather turned remarkably cooler. Most of the past week has been dry, with a little moisture over the weekend. The dry summer has taken a toll on local pastures. Producers in the area have had to start feeding hay sooner than normal. The October rains below normal for the area, and

regrowth will be slower than normal. There were no other unusual conditions to report.

Thurston: Another week of beautiful autumn weather had most ag producers wondering when the fall rainy season will begin. Christmas tree growers continued preparing harvest roads and getting harvest equipment serviced. Turfgrass growers continued to irrigate fields due to the lack of moisture. Dairymen were making the final cutting of green chop for the year. U-Pick pumpkin farms continued to report brisk sales.

Central

Benton: Grape harvest was nearly complete. Rain is needed.

Franklin: Carrot, corn, and apple harvest continued. Temperatures were cooler and many field operations were winding down for the season.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest terminated due to the freezing weather. Carrot harvest continued. Soil fumigation was underway for 2003 potato and onion crops. Mustard green manure crops were being chopped and soil incorporated. Late apple harvest was underway. The fourth cutting of alfalfa harvest neared completion.

Kittitas: Apple harvest continued. The county experienced five months of very dry conditions; precipitation is greatly needed.

Potato harvest neared completion.

Okanogan/Ferry: Apple harvest was winding down. Cattle were being moved to fall pastures. Some supplemental feeding was being done. Also, some producers were hauling water to cattle, as water sources were running very low or not at all. The "Emergency Conservation Program" has been implemented in Ferry and Okanogan Counties. This will provide cost-share assistance to haul water to eligible producers in need.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 7 degrees above normal to 9 degrees below normal, with a minimum temperature of 19 degrees on three nights. There was no precipitation.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Weather conditions remained dry during the past week. Winter wheat stands were good in only a few areas. Many areas had spotty stands and need rain for the rest of the wheat. There is no emergence on any recrop wheat. Some early seeded wheat that has emerged was infested with cheatgrass, goat grass, and wild oats, as there was no opportunity to get these weeds sprouted and killed prior to seeding the wheat. Some producers were spraying this fall for control. Others may have to replant. Pastures were in poor condition. Producers were selling calves early and culling heavier than normal, even though prices were poor. A few producers were already feeding hay.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Both counties were extremely dry. Parts of the county have not received rain since June. Grazing conditions were actually worse than last year. A large number of producers have actually had to start feeding hay ahead of normal. The seeded winter wheat really needs rain. Some reports of grain that sprouted are now running out of moisture and drying. The majority were sitting in dry soil waiting for moisture to sprout. The bluegrass fields have not greened

up at all and this will have a negative effect on next year's yields. Adequate moisture is desperately needed.

Stevens: During the past week, the county experienced temperatures in the low teens several mornings. Much needed moisture failed to appear. Despite the very dry conditions, winter wheat seedings have emerged and looked good.

Whitman: Dry, cold conditions predominated the week. The germination and emergence of winter wheat was a concern due to lack of soil moisture in the seed zone, particularly on re-crop ground. Grazing conditions were mostly poor and supplemental hay was being given to many herds and flocks.

Whitman (2nd Report): Fall fieldwork was coming to a close, but concern was mounting over the dry conditions. Spotty showers were received over the weekend, but amounts were not enough to give newly emerged winter wheat the type of moisture needed for heading into winter.

**Weekly Weather Statistics
October 28, 2002**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	34	60	47	-2	7	0	0	0	0.10	-0.78	1	1.72	-3.06	36	15
Everett	36	58	48	-2	8	1	0	0	0.04	-0.76	1	1.34	-3.38	28	16
Hoquiam	40	65	51	-2	19	-3	0	0	0.08	-1.57	2	2.61	-5.77	31	15
Kelso	36	68	51	1	22	8	0	0	0.00	-1.01	0	1.22	-4.29	22	8
Olympia	33	62	48	1	15	11	0	0	0.02	-1.16	1	0.79	-4.98	14	13
Seattle-Tacoma	38	60	49	-3	13	-1	0	0	0.00	-0.87	0	0.85	-3.68	19	10
Shelton	33	63	48	-2	13	1	0	0	0.02	-1.49	1	0.67	-6.47	9	7
Tacoma	34	63	50	0	16	7	0	0	0.00	-0.89	0	1.14	-3.47	25	12
Vancouver	32	70	50	1	19	7	0	0	0.00	-0.84	0	1.54	-3.07	33	8
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	15	69	42	-3	5	5	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.10	-0.84	11	3
Omak	14	70	43	-1	12	12	0	0	0.00	-0.22	0	0.15	-1.38	10	5
Stampede Pass	31	53	41	5	0	0	0	0	0.00	-1.78	0	1.58	-7.15	18	12
Wenatchee	27	70	46	-2	13	6	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.39	-0.37	51	6
Yakima AP	19	71	43	-5	5	-2	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.10	-0.69	13	2
NORTHEAST															
Colville	15	70	42	-2	3	3	0	0	0.00	-0.34	0	0.47	-1.67	22	4
Deer Park	9	62	37	-8	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.31	0	0.59	-1.17	34	10
Spokane AP	17	62	40	-5	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	0.78	-0.74	51	9
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	22	70	43	-6	8	1	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.10	-0.62	14	2
Moses Lake	18	69	42	-7	4	-3	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.08	-0.64	11	2
Quincy	19	72	43	-5	6	2	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.12	-0.69	15	3
Ritzville	23	67	45	-2	6	5	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.24	-0.96	20	4
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	22	71	44	-8	9	-13	0	0	0.00	-0.12	0	0.11	-0.56	16	2
Pasco	20	71	43	-7	6	-9	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.07	-0.71	9	2
Pullman	15	62	38	-8	0	-6	0	0	0.00	-0.38	0	0.58	-1.58	27	7
Whitman Mission	18	69	42	-7	2	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	0.38	-1.15	25	5
IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	18	64	41	-7	1	-4	0	0	0.00	-0.44	0	1.19	-1.31	48	6
Lewiston ID	29	66	47	-3	8	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.65	-0.91	42	9

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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